

genitalia. It is a pity that it has not been possible to improve on the quality of the original plates. The classification of Reichardt and Jordan has been adhered to in the main but the author has aimed to make it "compatible with a critical assessment of the genital armature of both sexes". A list of references and a useful glossary are included. The book is well set out and neatly bound in limp covers. Price £5.80. — E.H.W.

## Notes and Observations

LEPIDOPTERA MIGRANTS, 1977. — Until recently, this year has been conspicuous in Oxfordshire in that I have recorded no possible migrants from Europe. However, no doubt due to the continuous south-westerly winds we have had for the last six weeks, I would like to record the following taken in my m.v. trap at Steeple Barton, 13 miles north of Oxford.

October 20th: *Phlogophora meticulosa* L., 200-300; *Autographa gamma* L., 6. October 21st: *P. meticulosa* L., 6; *A. gamma* L., 4. October 22nd: *Mythimna vitellina* Hbn., 1 ♂ — this was a pale specimen suggesting that the pupa had been exposed to a warm temperature, and is I think only the second *vitellina* I have had for this part of Oxfordshire; *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn., 3; *A. gamma* L., 4. October 30th: *M. vitellina* Hbn., 1 ♂, exactly comparable to the individual taken on 22nd; *P. meticulosa* L., 4.

It therefore appears that there must have been a widespread migration of *M. vitellina* sufficient to be recorded in central England. *Vanessa atalanta* L. was common during the early weeks of October, but rapidly disappeared towards the end of the month. They were feeding on late blooms of lavender. — Dr. H. B. D. KETTLEWELL, Steeple Barton Vicarage, Oxford, OX5 3QP.

STILL MORE HAZARDS OF MOTH HUNTING. — Mr. Mark Hadley's entertaining account (89: 222) of his collecting group being reported as a "Martian Invasion" because of the use of actinic traps, recalls a similar occasion in my experience. In the United States, a very common method of night collecting utilises a fluorescent ultraviolet tube positioned on a bedsheet which covers the windscreen and bonnet of one's automobile, driven into a field or wood for the purpose. On 12th May, 1963, I was collecting with a small group in a state park in Oakland Co., Michigan. Four autos were involved, each with an ultraviolet lamp. Much to our consternation, we were suddenly surrounded from various directions by three police cars. A neighbouring farmer had observed us and phoned in a report of "flying saucers". Having related that occurrence many times, I have found that the "Martian Invasion" theme is far from uncommon here.

A more acute hazard is that of "The Moth in the Ear". My entomological diary for 1964 records that on 22nd July I was working my trap in Okemos, Michigan amid a swarm of